

**Abstract:**

The present invention provides a perpendicular recording medium capable of reducing the magnetic interaction in the magnetic layer and having an excellent noise characteristic.

The perpendicular recording medium 10 related to the present invention comprises a nonmagnetic base substrate 1, a underlayer 2 formed directly or indirectly on said nonmagnetic base substrate 1, a magnetic layer 4 formed on said underlayer 2 for recording magnetic information, characterized in that said underlayer 2 is composed of an alloy principally comprising two elements, the difference of standard free energy  $\Delta G^\circ$  for producing an oxide or nitride of said both elements at room temperature is set not lower than 70 kJ/mol [O<sub>2</sub> or N<sub>2</sub>], and the crystal grains constituting the underlayer 2 principally compose one of said two elements having a higher value  $\Delta G^\circ$ , and the grain boundary of the underlayer 2 principally comprises an oxide or nitride of an element having a lower  $\Delta G^\circ$ .